

America their misguided priorities. In order to once again provide the wealthiest few in our Nation with tax breaks adding up to \$70 billion, House Republicans will cut \$54 billion from needed programs, including \$12 billion to Medicaid.

America can do better than slashing health care for low-income children, seniors, and people with disabilities to pay for additional tax breaks for millionaires.

America can do better than slashing a program that provides insurance to one of every seven Americans, at a time when the number of the uninsured has risen by 6 million under this President.

America can do better than increasing costs for essential health care services for the poorest Americans, including for the first time ever even the poorest children, which will reduce their access to needed health care.

America can do better than a budget package where \$3 out every \$4 in Medicaid cuts are borne directly by individuals who are poor or disabled.

When are the House Republicans going to realize a stronger America is one where we all work together?

Together, America can do better.

IRAQI SPECIAL TRIBUNAL HOUSE RESOLUTION

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, the path to a free and democratic Iraq has been dangerous and protracted. Yet, after years of oppression, the Iraqis are closer than ever to having a nation ruled by their people instead of a tyrant.

For the safety of our Nation, I believe we must continue to support the sovereign actions of this developing nation.

Current news headlines are showcasing the trial of Saddam Hussein and what danger accompanies that activity. His trial is important, but a strong, independent Iraqi judicial system is of greater importance.

As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to uphold and support this principle, especially in a land that has been so tormented. The Iraqi Special Tribunal has been impaneled to bring swift and impartial justice to both the victims and the nation of Iraq. I urge Members to support H.R. 534, recognizing the importance and credibility of an independent Iraqi judiciary.

NATIONAL DEBT SURPASSES \$8 TRILLION

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, just 2 weeks ago, the national debt passed the \$8 trillion mark.

This unfortunate milestone was the direct result of policies put in place by

the leadership of this Congress and the Bush White House. Now our friends on the other side of the aisle want the Members of the Blue Dog Coalition to endorse their latest push to run the debt even higher.

This budget package should be called the "Deficit Expansion Act." It would continue drowning America in red ink in order to finance new tax cuts for the wealthy and privileged. It is time for a real strategy for fiscal responsibility, not more of the same.

The Blue Dog Coalition has put forward a comprehensive, 12-step plan that would dig America out of this fiscal mess. Our proposal includes commonsense reforms such as reinstating PAYGO rules and discretionary spending caps.

I strongly urge my colleagues in Congress to take immediate action on the debt by embracing real bipartisan reform.

A SALUTE TO VETERANS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, this Friday, Americans will observe Veterans Day, a special day of national observance that we have set aside to remember our veterans and their sacrifices.

The 50 million Americans who have served our country since the American Revolution have done more than just protect our national security. They fought for our freedom, and in so doing, our veterans have provided a shining example for the millions of Americans who followed in their footsteps.

In my own family, my father served in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific theater. He was in the Iwo Jima campaign and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Nearly 2 million veterans live in my home State of Florida. Thousands of my fellow Floridians have served or are on active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. Some of these soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice and many have suffered grievous wounds. I salute these brave men and women.

Madam Speaker, may God bless our veterans, their families, and this great Nation.

REPUBLICAN CUTS TO FOOD STAMP AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, this week, Republicans will bring a budget reconciliation bill up that cuts critical Federal programs that directly affect the lives of everyday Americans, all so they can turn around and cut taxes that primarily benefit America's millionaires.

Among the proposals they will bring and will try to force through are dra-

matic cuts in food assistance programs to our most vulnerable. According to the CBO, the Republican food stamp cuts would knock nearly 300,000 Americans off nutritional assistance programs. Included in that number are 40,000 children who would no longer receive either free or reduced-price school lunches.

No other group has benefited more from 5 years of Republican domination in Washington than those who are the wealthiest in our Nation, and now Republicans want to take school lunches away from 40,000 children so they can provide America's millionaires another tax break.

These children desperately need the nutrition provided in school lunches. It is cruel, and this bill must be defeated.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to America's veterans, whose brave efforts have safeguarded those values we hold dear: freedom, liberty, democracy, and the American way of life.

This week, as we celebrate Veterans Day, I hope all Americans will take the time to thank a veteran for his or her service to our country.

From our Nation's founding days, we have appreciated and recognized the sacrifices and valor of our veterans. General George Washington noted in 1776 that American soldiers "have done all I have asked you to do, and more than can be reasonably expected." Our veterans today rise to this same challenge.

America's veterans fought to preserve our great Nation, to liberate the oppressed, and to hold fast to the idea that freedom and liberty are universal rights worth fighting and, yes, sometimes dying for.

I want to thank all of our veterans for their selfless service. From Omaha Beach and the Pacific seas, to the jungles of Vietnam and the sands of the Middle East, we live every day with the gift of liberty because you secured our freedom and the freedom of generations to come.

BLUE DOGS STAND FIRM AGAINST REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, I too stand united today with my fellow Blue Dog Democrats in opposition to the majority's budget reconciliation decisions. Blue Dogs have consistently stood for fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets, and an honest, open, and accountable budget process.

So why would Blue Dogs support a proposal that is part of a budget reconciliation package that will increase the deficit, not lower it? Why would we